

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 SAJ-01 NIC-01 OMB-01 EB-11 SIL-01 LAB-06

COME-00 TRSE-00 DRC-01 /122 W  
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R 141600Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6885

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ECON UR

SUBJ: LENINGRAD OBLAST PARTY CONFERENCE: ECONOMIC ASPECTS

1. REGULAR PRAVDA "PARTIYNIYA ZHIZN" COLUMN OF MARCH 14  
CONTAINS ACCOUNT OF RECENT LENINGRAD CPSU OBLASTCONFERENCE,  
WHICH WAS LARGELY DEVOTED TO STATE OF ECONOMY IN AREA.  
REPORTING TO CONFERENCE, OBLAST FIRST SECRETARY G.V.  
ROMANOV NOTED THAT FOR 1971-73 PERIOD GROWTH IN LABOR  
PRODUCTIVITY AND IN INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION )LATTER AMOUNTING  
TO 19.5 PERCENT) FOR OBLAST AS WHOLE CORRESPONDS TO FIVE-  
YEAR PLAN DIRECTIVES. ON OTHER HAND, 14 RAYONS WITHIN OBLAST  
DID NOT MATCH 1971-73 PLAN GOALS FOR PRODUCTION INCREASES.  
PROBLEMS STILL PERSIST ALSO IN REALM OF LABOR PRODUCTIVITY,  
STATED ROMANOV, IN POINTING TO FACT THAT ONE TENTH OF ALL  
AUTOMATED PRODUCTION LINES IN OBLAST FACTORIES OPERATING  
AT ONLY HALF CAPACITY, WHEREAS "SPECIALIZED" MACHINE TOOLS,  
COMPUTERS, AND OTHERHIHG-TECHNOLOGY EQUIPMENT ARE BEING  
UTILIZED ON ONLY ONE SHIFT PER DAY. CONCERNING PRODUCTION  
ASSOCIATIONS, ROMANOV PRESENTS UP-BEAT PICTURE, POINTING OUT  
THAT 33NEW "FIRMS" HAVE BEEN CREATED SINCE 24TH PARTY  
CONGRESS; 87 ASSOCIATIONS, TOGETHER WITH MAJOR (PRESUMABLY  
INDEPENDENT) ENTERPRISES, ACCOUNT FOR 60 PERCENT OF TOTAL  
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OBLAST INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION. COMMENT: LEAD ARTICLE IN

SAME ISSUE OF PRAVDA DEALS WITH PRDUCTION ASSOCIATION  
QUESTION MORE HARSHLY. END COMMENT)

2. ROMANOV REPORT STRESSES IMPORTANCE OF PARTY IN CON-  
TROLLING DAY-TO-DAY ACTIVITIES WITHIN ECONOMY, REITERATING  
24TH PARTY CONGRESS STATEMENTS THAT MANAGEMENT OF  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IS POLITICAL AFFAIR, A MATTER FOR THE  
PARTY. (COMMENT: STATEMENTS SUCH AS ROMANOV'S,  
EMPHASIZING PARTY CONTROL WITHIN ECONOMY, NOW APPEARING  
REGULARLY IN PRESS, PRESUMABLY STIMULATED BY APPARENT  
BREZHNEV DECREE AT DECEMBER 1973, CPSU PLENUM TO EFFECT THAT  
PARTY MUST STEP IN AND CLEAN UP MESS IN WHICH ECONOMY FINDS  
ITSELF, PARTICULARLY IN AREA OF LABOR PRODUCTIVITY)  
STOESSEL

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## Message Attributes

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